

QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

Question Number	Question asked by Councillor:	Subject
CABINET MEMBER FOR HOMES, REGENERATION AND PLANNING Councillor Alison Butler		
CQ014-17	Pelling, A	Homelessness Reduction Bill

CQ014-17 **from Councillor Andrew Pelling**

Councillor Alison Butler

What amount of financing will be provided by government to assist Croydon council with new legal duties arising from the Homelessness Reduction Bill?

What is the authority already doing to meet such additional duties through its ground breaking Gateway initiative?

What will be the excess of additional costs to meet the duties of the Bill beyond the grant from government?

Reply

The government have committed £61 million pounds over 2 years to help English authorities deliver the new duties under the homeless reduction bill.

Currently there are no details how this will be distributed between local authorities. Although if this was equally divided amongst all of the authorities affected it would result in funding of £84k per year. However, as part of our work with DCLG and London Councils we have estimated the additional costs of the new burdens at 2 million per year. This is also disproportionate when you consider funding for Welsh authorities, where they will receive £17.5m over 2 years and if this was equally divided would result in funding of £397k per year.

The gateway service already delivers a high quality prevention service that goes further than the requirements suggested in the homelessness reduction bill. Our help looks both housing and financial stability so that any solution not only put a roof over a families head but also helps them sustains there tenancy and improve their employment opportunities. However this service is mainly delivered to those households that would have a priority under the current homeless legislation. Whilst we welcome the suggested changes in the bill as it gives us the opportunity to deliver high quality prevention service to a wider group of people the lack of proper funding of the new burdens will undoubtedly create further financial pressures.